

NKURINGO

Foundation Nursery & Primary School

September 2017

People2People

NEWSletter

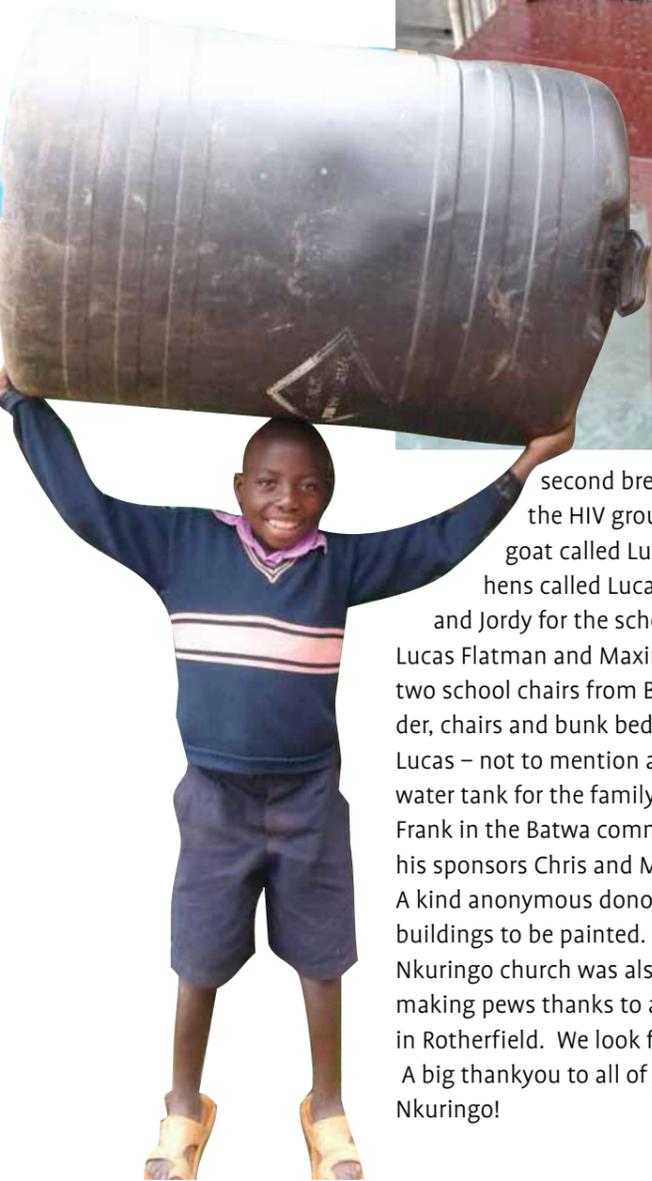


SEE BLOSSOM'S BLOG

MORE GOOD NEWS

We are thrilled once again to bring you photos of some of the many good news stories we have this month. We have two new little girls in the school – Bridget Oyijwirenema – kindly sponsored by Lyn Hartly – who has actually started school and is shown proudly showing off her new uniform – and Catherine Ayinembabazi who is shown as she was told she had been given the opportunity to go to school by Phil and Karen Alcock – we hope to have photos of Catherine next time in class! There have been gifts of pigs (Heaven joins Faith as the

Below: Moses Frank proudly holds up the family water tank purchased for him by Chris and Mick Bugden.



second breeding pig for the HIV group), a breeding goat called Lucas and four hens called Lucas, Anya, John and Jordy for the school (thanks Lucas Flatman and Maxine Atkins), two school chairs from Barbara Crowder, chairs and bunk beds again from Lucas – not to mention a personal water tank for the family of Moses Frank in the Batwa community from his sponsors Chris and Mick Bugden.

A kind anonymous donor also gave £200 to enable the school buildings to be painted. What a wonderful gift! Nkuringo church was also given the good news they can start making pews thanks to a kind donation from St Denys church in Rotherfield. We look forward to sitting on them in October! A big thankyou to all of you from the community of Nkuringo!



MEMBERS OF St Denys Church, Rotherfield, held a coffee morning on 23rd August to raise money for Nkuringo. Apart from completing fund raising for the water tank they so kindly donated the school (which is already in place and making a big difference) they want to provide money to have pews made in Nkuringo for the new church. Currently there are very few seating options and with services that can be 5 hours or more in length you can imagine that pews are very welcome! These pews will be engraved "Donated by St Denys Church, Rotherfield, England" so the congregations for years to come can reflect on the close ties that are forming between these two communities.

The morning was beautifully organised by Judith Hardy, Cynthia Yates, Hazel Thorne and Penny Ely of the church Small Events Committee.

There was a great turn out! Jean Coles and Yvonne Kennedy greeted everyone with smiles and raffle tickets. There were certainly some amazing prizes to be won! From the most exquisite bouquets of flowers put together by Sheila Booker from her beautiful garden – to alcohol, sweets and other excitements - there was certainly something for everyone!

Judith Hardy manned the bric-a-brac stall with an energy that swept away all memories of her recent illness – and even went on to do the raffle where prizes flew in all directions. Jo Evans brought along her grandson Archie who was happy to read out raffle numbers and got really excited when one of them belonged to his gran!

There were cream teas to die for and some wonderful conversation!

This was a real fund raising success that really showed the giving heart of the Rotherfield community. Thank you everyone who either took part or attended – you raised a whopping **£376.27** for Nkuringo!

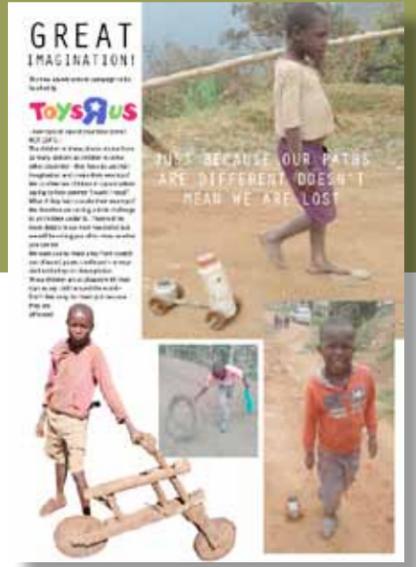
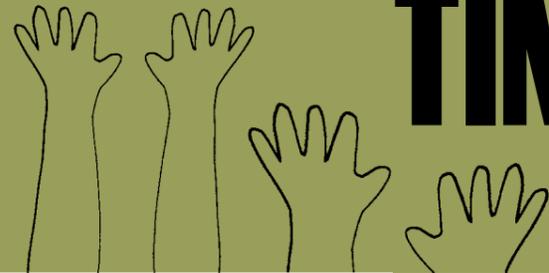


Hopefully the photos on this page capture the fun of this event – from Judith modelling a lamp for sale to Archie peering over a new toy and Jean and Yvonne folding raffle tickets. St Denys Church and Nkuringo church (shown here) – so far apart yet so close in friendship.

USE YOUR IMAGINATION • USE YOUR IMAGINATION • USE YOUR IMAGINATION

CALLING ALL
**UNDER
12 YEAR OLDS
IN THE UK**

COMPETITION TIME



In the August Newsletter we announced that we were going to run a second competition – this time asking our younger children of sponsors and friends to build us a Home Made Toy out of any old empty containers - bottles, jam jars, lids, string, felt, cardboard, toothpaste tubes or other general household rubbish. Your imagination is key! In Uganda if a child wants a toy they have to make it themselves and you saw how proud they are of their creations. Let us see if you can do the same! There are **cash prizes** to be won - **1st** place £25 • **2nd** place £15 • **3rd** place £10 and all will be featured in the newsletter.

Closing Date 31st December 2107

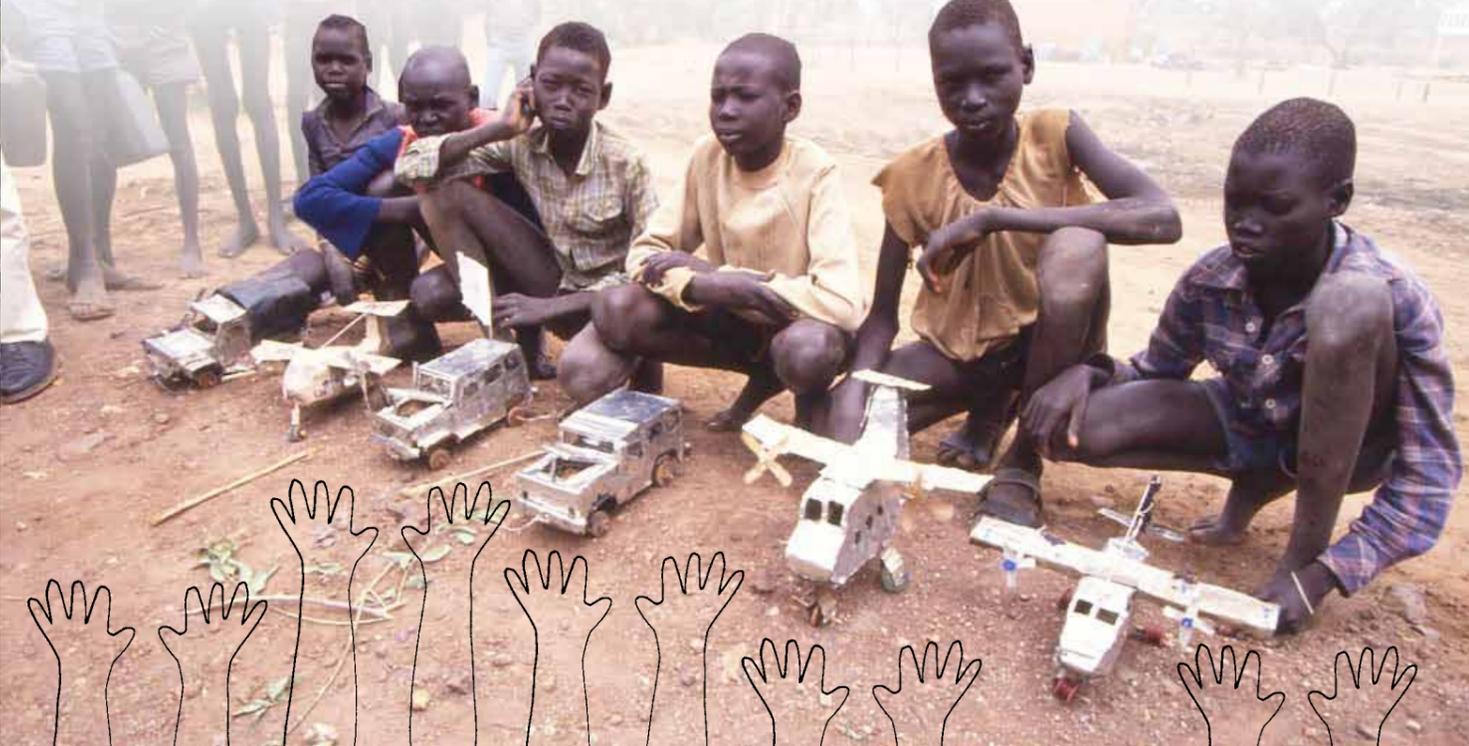
All entries to be sent as photographs on a plain background (as many photos as you feel are necessary to show off your toy). Tell us what your toy is made of and how long it took you to make it. If you have any preliminary drawings enclose them as well! Entries to stephenknowlden@btinternet.com

Inspiration

If you were to Google "home made toys" then click on "Images" you can see what can be done – however the more creative you can be yourselves the better!

Remember

For you this is a competition – for the children of Uganda this is daily life!!!





Blossom's Blog

Volunteering in Nkuringo for Singing Gorilla Projects

A two week update!

Sunday, 20 August 2017

Life's been busy here in Nkuringo over the last two weeks but without any internet I haven't had a chance to share any of it! As well as working in the clinic and learning how to dispense medication in Rucheega, the local dialect, I've been doing all sorts of other things....

Having spent a couple of nights in Kisoro at Sawasawa, a lovely guesthouse with the friendliest people, coming back to Albertine and Nkuringo felt strangely like coming home. It's amazing how quickly a place becomes familiar and you settle in. Patrick (Kato) knows far too many people and came back with a huge bag of fresh passion fruits and small bananas, they taste absolutely incredible and make for a perfect breakfast.

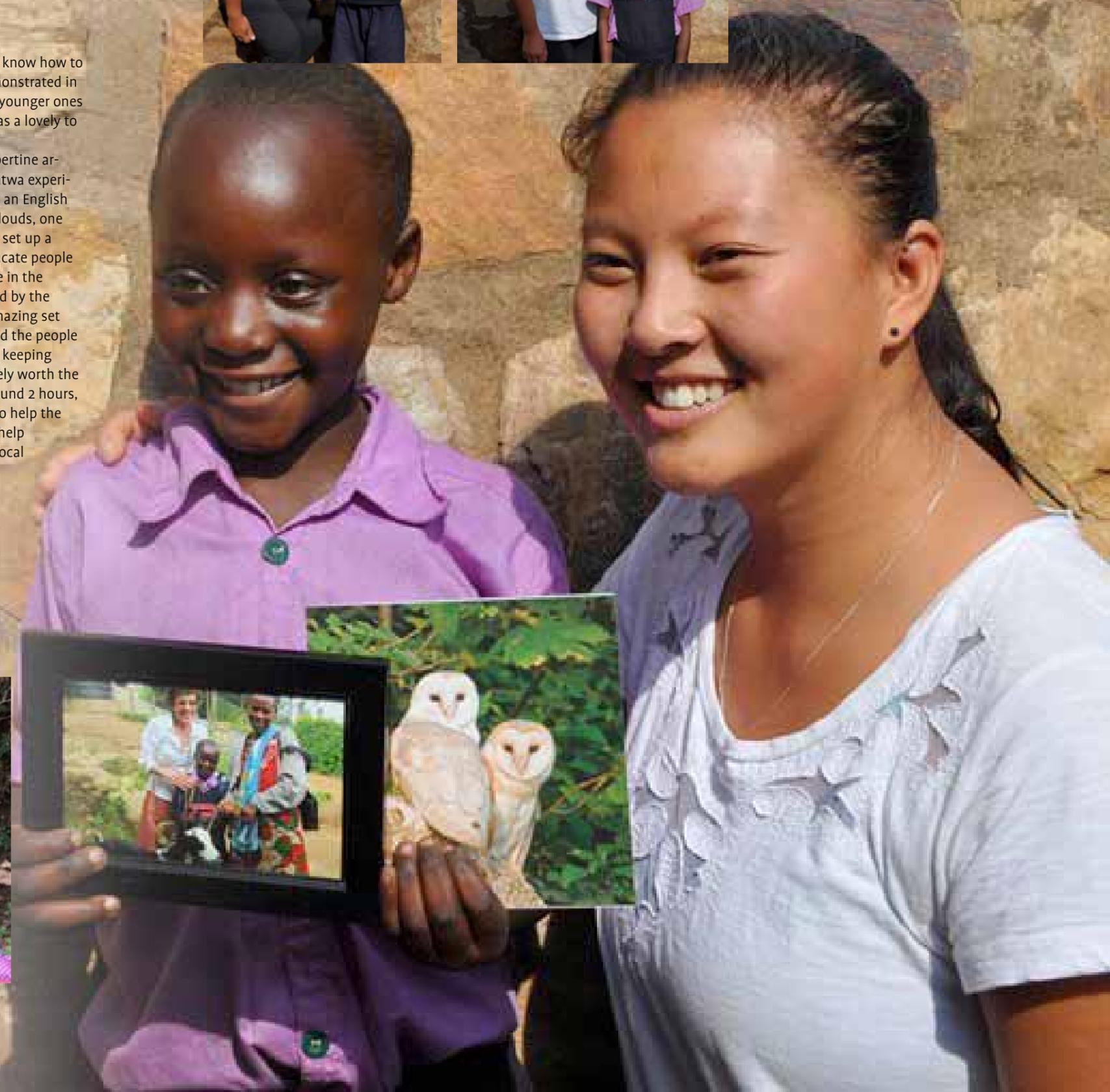
Sunday is a day for family and socialising here so after everyone has been to church and had lunch with their families they gather in the Trading Centre dressed in their best clothes. It really was full with lots of people selling things, arsenal was

playing Chelsea and it was being shown in the local "cinema" and children were playing. The colours of everyone's clothes brightened up the afternoon, and we sat outside one of the pubs with a beer enjoying the view and watching the people. I visited Asgarios school - the Nkuringo Foundation Nursery and Primary School - on Monday morning with a few gifts from the children's sponsors and it was lovely to see their faces when they received their gifts. I was amazed that they were not more eager to open the presents but they all held onto them carefully and only opened them with some encouragement. I also brought with me some dinosaur and fairy gliders for all of the children, they were light and compact to bring, which turned out to be a great hit. The older children, P7 and P6, were taking exams but we went round the rest of the classrooms and I gave out the toys to some very

excited children! They did not know how to put them together so we demonstrated in each classroom and with the younger ones had to help them all which was a lovely way to spend the morning.

Gervase the manager of Albertine arranged for me to go on the Batwa experience tour on Wednesday with an English couple who were staying at Clouds, one of the local lodges. They have set up a walking tour that aims to educate people on how the Batwa used to live in the forest before they were evicted by the government in 1981. It's an amazing set up in a small pocket forest and the people acting are enthusiastic about keeping their culture alive. It's definitely worth the experience and only takes around 2 hours, plus it's a great opportunity to help the conservation of the area and help the Batwa integrate into the local community.

I was invited by Francis the headteacher at Ntungamo primary school to accompany them to their music competition that the older children were taking part in on Friday at the local coordinating centre in Rubuguri. There were 4 schools competing and each



had to perform 9 different pieces including a set piece, a poem, a short play, story telling and traditional folk dance. All of the children did amazingly well and came second on the day which means they go on to compete at the district level in Kisoro.

On Saturday I went back to Rubuguri with Damas, a nurse from the clinic, and as well as visiting his home village and trying a local pork dish we went to the hospital where Jania, the nursing assistant at the clinic, had given birth to a beautiful baby boy that morning. He hasn't got a name yet and everyone kept saying he was muzungu because of his pale colour at birth.



Then we returned to Rubuguri on Saturday for the wedding of Chigga, a teacher at the singing gorilla music school. It was an interesting experience and very different from any wedding I've been to before. The church service was attended by friends, family and local people from the town. It was much more of a community event and the party afterwards was held at the local primary school, the three huge marquees that had been put up were packed and everyone was still running round decorating the place just minutes before the bride and groom arrived. There were the usual speeches, songs from the

children and lots of music. It was intriguing to see all the presents they received which included lots of household items as well as two goats which were presented to them and two cows which fortunately weren't invited to the party. Before the heavens opened they cut the cake at which point there was an influx of local children all hoping for a slice. I honestly can't believe that I'm already halfway through my stay here in Nkurungo. I'm making so many new friends, having so many great adventures and am sure that the next three weeks are going to be just as brilliant as the first half!



He weighed 3.9kg and was absolutely gorgeous to have cuddles with.

I attended church on Sunday and sat through a long five hour service which I think felt longer as I couldn't understand anything that the priest was talking about. It was an interesting experience and I managed to join in with the clapping in some of the songs. As well as the usual service a wedding and baptism service was included which was a nice experience to be a part of.

This last week we went to Rubuguri market on Friday and bought half a sack of Irish potatoes for the clinic as well as some amazing fresh pineapple and avocados.





Time really flies

Honestly can't believe I've been here in Nkuringo for a whole month and will be leaving this wonderful place at the end of next week.

All of the schools have now broken up for the holidays and after the number of exams I witnessed going on I'm sure they are well deserved. It feels strangely quiet walking past the schools on the way to the clinic and not having anyone to save to or shout hello at! This week has been slightly less crazy and so I thought I'd run through what life was like in the Nkuringo Green Hill Health Clinic. The doors of the clinic open at 8 o'clock in the morning, but life here runs slowly and everyone is on Ugandan time not muzungu time, the actual time! Muzungu is the word given to strangers or more commonly given to people who aren't African, the plural of which is buzungo. You quickly get used to it as a sort of nickname. The days can vary in terms of the number of patients who come to clinic but there is always a range of young babies, children, adults and more senior citizens. There is no appointment system or number system in the waiting room and patients queue by remembering who arrived before them. The doctor's room is at the end of the corridor and patients are assessed here, they then get sent to the office. Here they pay a set amount for an adult or child consultation regardless of the treatment or medications prescribed, or they may get sent to the lab for various tests. At the moment the lab is set up to test for a range of things such as HIV, malaria, pregnancy tests, syphilis and urine analysis. The results are recorded and they are then sent back to the doctor who's treatment will depend on the outcome of the tests. The medication is dispensed from a small room linked to the waiting area. The range of medication is impressive and the amount of medication prescribed is counted out into small bags with instructions written on the front on how many and how often to take the tablets. All of the



medication dispensed is recorded in a large book against the number of the patient. Most of the conditions that we see in the clinic are the same as in England ranging from respiratory conditions such as a common cold to acute pneumonia. Musculoskeletal pains are another common complaint which is understandable considering the physical lifestyle



that everyone leads here. Some people come in with wounds which need looking after and dressing. The nurses here are able to stitch deeper lacerations and it has been interesting to observe this and assist by arranging the equipment. Some of the illnesses which are not as common in England include helmenthiasis (worms), typhoid and malaria.

It's taken me a while to interpret everyone's handwriting and the different abbreviations they use but I can now pack and dispense medication virtually independently with the slight issue being my attempts to give instructions in ru-chega are often received with blank faces or hysterical giggling. I have learnt how to carry out and interpret the more basic lab tests and am still learning the more complex ones. I have been spending some time attempting to assess patients with the help of another member of staff interpreting for me but the language barrier is a massive problem and makes it incredibly difficult. The cultural differences and variations in treatment and guidelines also complicate this aspect further. As well as helping inside the clinic I like to help prepare lunch. I've learnt how to cook beans and posho but am still struggling with the smoke from the open fire so I much prefer peeling potatoes or attempting to chop the wood, I think I need a bit more practice in my aim though! So there's lots to keep my day varied and always something new to learn and of course we can always find the time to have a laugh or two during the day as well!

FRIENDS HELP OUT



Kenneth Tumbwene, who runs the local HIV group, is no stranger to hospitals. He spends a lot of his time visiting sick members and even comforting them in their last hours. It is however always a shock when sickness strikes closer to home. Kenneth's father was taken ill and was unable to make his way to hospital on his own. No calling a taxi here! However the community is wonderful at rallying round in times of need and volunteers came forward to physically carry his father to hospital. Kenneth says there is no way he could have managed without them. The last we heard Kenneth's dad is still not well but is in hospital where they are doing their best to care for him. We wish him well!



NEWSLETTER FRONT PAGE COMPETITION

Do not forget – there is still time to get in your entries! We need you to design the October 2017 cover! The winner will have their name and photo in the newsletter, win a carved gorilla and of course the front page will be entirely their own work! ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER!
stephenknowlden@btinternet.com

A TEACHER'S STORY



In our July issue we brought you a day in the life of a student at the Nkuringo Foundation Nursery and Primary School – Sarah Mbabazi. This month we are going to look at the school from the other side of the fence – the story of a teacher. The teacher we have chosen to follow is Leonari Byobusingye.

Leonari is the teacher on the right in the bottom photo alongside three more new teachers Alex Tumusime, Jonas Twesime and John Tumwesigye.

Leonari is 21 years old. He is from a very poor family. As with many families it is a large family – there are nine children – seven boys and two girls. Leonari is the third born. His mother is Verena Uwimana age 46 and his father is Sunday John age 57. Leonari is single. His family live in the village of Rugandu in the Rubiguri district.

Leonari is very hard working. When he is at home he supplements his income by making bricks to sell. A brick is sold for 160 ugandan shillings. A big truck will hold 2000 bricks – which is about 320,000 shillings worth – or \$90. So Leonari makes 2000 bricks for just over £70.

Leonari sleeps at the school during term time. He shares a room with two of the other new teachers – Alex and Jonas. Leonari is Deputy Headteacher. He holds a Grade three certificate from Kisoro Primary Teacher's College. In Nkuringo Leonari teaches English and Social Studies from Primary 5 to Primary 7.

We look forward to meeting Leonari and his fellow teachers in October.

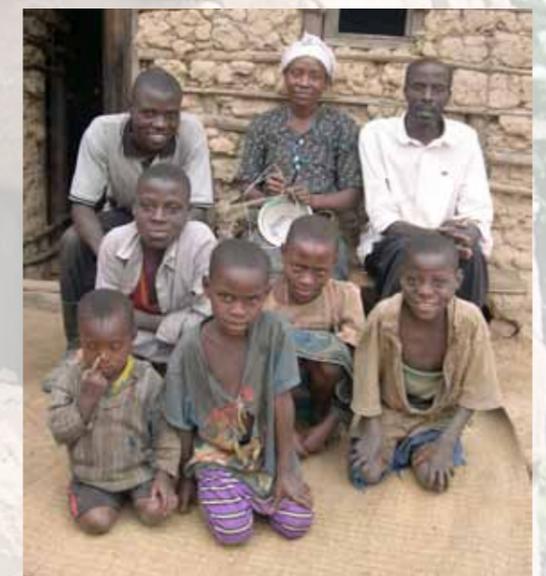


Above left and right: Leonari in class

Near right: Bedroom at school

Far right: Leonari with his family

Main picture: Storing his bricks



Primary Teachers College (PTC)

There are 47 primary teachers colleges (PTCs) in Uganda; 45 are owned and funded by the government and 2 are owned by faith-based bodies. The minimum entry requirement is O Level with pass in 6 subjects including mathematics, English and at least two sciences. Applicants can join only within 2 years of taking their O Level. This makes the average age of entrants 17 years old. A Level is considered an additional qualification because this background is perceived to be far removed from the immediate needs of a primary school. It is believed that A Level leavers cannot be interested in primary teacher training, otherwise they would have applied to join a college with the minimum qualification. An Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Teacher Education (DTE) at the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) says, "Those who wait too long are not first choice applicants and do not make the best teachers". Some students join PTCs as an al-

ternative to the higher school certificate (HSC) programme, either because they missed the grades, or because their parents cannot afford the fees for HSC.

The pre-service programme consists of two years of training in content and pedagogy, with three school practice periods of 8 weeks each. A government grant of US\$ 1,500 (32p) per student per day is paid to each college to cover the running expenses of the pre-service programme. In-service students follow the programme for four years. They attend college during school holidays, take school practice twice, and must pay their fees.

A uniform curriculum is taught across the colleges, generated by Kyambogo University which has the mandate for primary teacher education. The curriculum consists of Professional Studies, Mathematics, Language, Science, Social Studies and Cultural Studies. Trainees are trained to teach all subjects on the primary school curriculum. Kyambogo

University also trains tutors, moderates and monitors college examinations.

Trainees take promotional examinations at the end of Year One which determine their progress to Year Two. Students qualify with a Grade III Teacher Certificate, the basic requirement for a primary teaching post. On completion, a new teacher should be able to teach English, Mathematics, Science, Performing Arts, Production Skills and Art & Craft at any level. This approach differs from the practice in schools - teachers are deployed to teach specific subjects and class levels depending on a school's needs and the perceived ability of the teacher.



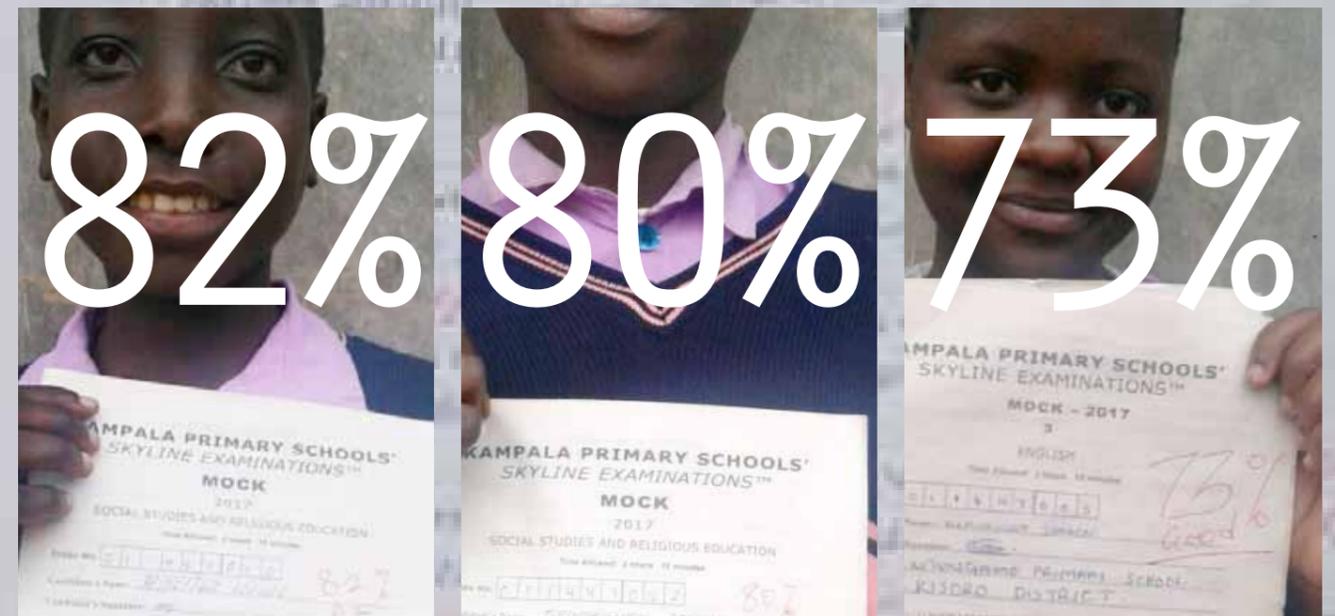
MOCK RESULTS ARE IN!

In November 2017, for the first time, Nkuringo Foundation Nursery and Primary School will be in a position to enter pupils for the Primary Leaving Exams. Pupils who pass their PLE can progress to secondary school.

There are 17 pupils in primary seven. They have just completed their first Mock Exams – which will help them understand the areas in which they need to work harder to ensure they do their best in the actual exams.

Marks are in – and they are actually very promising. You can see here Damian, Shallon and Lovingi proudly showing their marks in one of the papers taken.

The school hopes to have at least ten pupils in first grade at end of the national exams in November and send a big thank you to all sponsors and friends who are actually supporting the school in different fields so that they achieve success. You are making a real difference!.



Below are sample questions taken from some of the papers and the answers given by the pupils – note that all the exams are in English

What is a community?

A community is a group of people who live together and work together

In which way are mangrove forests important to water transport?

They provide waterproof timber for making boats

Where does the compass needle point to when at rest?

North

What is the difference between a lake and a river?

A lake is a large mass of water in a basin and a river is a large mass of water flowing

Name one part of a budget?

Expenditure

How does the boiling of drinking water help control typhoid?

By killing the germs that spread disease

Match the forms of electricity with their respective source.?

Thermal Fuel	Solar Sun,	Hydro Running Water	Bio-gas Dung and Urine
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Name one STD that can cause ectopic pregnancies in women?

Gonorrhoea

Name the fungi that grow over left over foods?

Mould

In which group of musical instruments do we put the drum?

Percussion

WE ARE THE FIRST GROUP
TO USE THIS GUEST HOUSE



The Nkuringo Guest House opens its doors this month! There is now a really lovely place to stay in the middle of our community – and one the **Go Uganda Group** will be thrilled to occupy when they go out next month! We understand that Gavin Willis, one of our sponsors, will also be staying here later this month when he goes to visit his sponsor child Allan Mubangizi and the rest of the school.

The rooms are twin or double and have toilets and showers!! You need to be aware that these might not be quite what they seem and probably only usable in the rainy season as water is scarce – but they are definitely a great luxury for travellers to the area and can be booked directly!

Our **Go Uganda 2017** trip is getting closer and the members are busy sorting out the piles of donations they have been collecting and ensuring they take as much useful stuff as they can in their baggage allowance (2 x 23kg bags each). Personal stuff will go in the generous 10kg hand luggage! We look forward to bringing you more news on this trip next month! And remember – **when we get back we will open bookings for the 2018 trip – so if you are interested you will need to get in quick!** Our last trip filled in 2 days.

Until then – if you want any more information on how you can help – or sponsor – please contact us!



**Nkuringo Guest House
Kahurire Village
Nteko Parish
Nyabwishenya S/County
Kisoro, Uganda
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